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Projected Results

Baptisms Drop For Second Year In Row For Baptists

By Dan Martin

NEW YORK (BP) — A projected decline in baptisms by Southern Baptists, which will reach the lowest ebb in 28 years, was the center of discussion at the annual meeting of state Baptist directors of evangelism, sponsored here by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB).

The projections by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board indicate that baptisms, the traditional indicator of health and growth in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), will dip to 342,201.

It represents the second year in a row in which baptism will decline and is an 11 percent drop from the baptism rate of the 1976 church year, in which 384,496 were baptized. It's 103,524 less than 1972, the peak year for the board.

Preliminary speculation on why baptisms declined centered on changes in age of the population, influence of para-church groups, misplaced emphases, the decline of the Jesus Movement and population movement.

According to a survey of state conventions conducted by the HMB's evangelism section, only nine of the 33 state or multi-state Baptist conventions recorded increases in baptisms. The gains, made primarily in the newer and smaller state organizations, were offset by large declines in many of the established conventions. Some—such as Virginia and South Carolina—recorded large declines which occurred despite massive denominational evangelistic emphases.

In Texas, where "Good News Texas" featured a media blitz and statewide revivals, a decline of some 2,500 was recorded from the 54,225 in 1976. "The figures are incomplete, and we expect to have about 52,000 bap-

tisms by the time all the churches report," said L. L. Morriss, director of evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, who was dismayed by the decline. "If we hadn't pulled out all the stops, there's no telling where we would have come out," he said.

But C. B. Hogue, the Home Mission Board's evangelism section director, said, "I think God is trying to say something to us, but we are like Rip Van Winkle and are sleeping through it. Maybe God is trying to bring spiritual renewal, but we are not involved in it."

Hogue claimed, "God is moving in the United States in ways never seen before... but somehow we have not reached out to become highly involved in it." He noted renewal is occurring in many denominations, and admitted much of the renewal has followed the charismatic movement. However, he said the renewal now is moving in church growth lines.

"The old line denominations, which have been going down, are coming to an awareness that God is wanting to do something in our time. Southern Baptists seem to be lying under the tree asleep while things are happening out there," he said.

Hogue told the state directors that 1976 statistics revealed 12.5 percent of the SBC churches had no baptisms that year. "Can you imagine that? And not all of them were country churches," he said.

He also noted Sunday School Board estimates for 1977 show declines in resident membership, Sunday School enrollment and church training attendance. Giving, however, increased. "That tells us a great deal about where our emphasis is," he said, adding that declines in resident membership show "a lack of serious church development. What we have is not a generation of New Testament believers but a generation of people who don't know what they really believe."

"There may be a lot of reasons," Hogue continued, "but trying to pinpoint them now would be pure speculation. We will be studying the age statistics when they are available as well as looking at other factors."

Some experts, such as Sunday School Board statistician Jim Lowry, say the reason for the decline may be that "the birth rate decline in the mid-1960s is starting to catch up with us." The number of children ages 6-11 has been steadily declining, and Sunday

School enrollment among that age group declined 100,000 from 1973 to 1976, he said.

Hogue added: "A significant part of Baptist life is that we have always baptized children when they reach the age of ability to make decisions about Jesus Christ." He said that in the peak baptism year of 1972, "the bus ministry emphasis was at its highest peak, with a lot of kids being baptized. Children are not as populous as before."

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In pure elation David Campos smiles. Since the Baptist pastor from Ecuador had surgery on Dec. 28 at University Hospital in Jackson, his pain is gone and he knows he will walk properly again.

To Walk Without Pain Becomes Christmas Gift For Pastor

By Anne McWilliams

"I feel no pain!" A glow spread over the face of the dark-haired young man on the hospital bed. "You don't know how wonderful it is! I feel nothing!" He struck the sheet for emphasis.

David Campos had travelled from Ecuador to Mississippi in time for Christmas, but Christmas really came to him on December 28 when Dr.

James Hughes operated on him at University Hospital in Jackson and gave him the power to walk straight again.

The Baptist pastor, who will be 33 on February 16, had been crippled since a bicycle accident ten years ago and in severe pain for many months.

By January 4 he was able to walk a little on crutches. The doctor assured him that both his legs were again the same length and that there was no reason why he should not soon be walking again normally.

Campos is pastor of the Urdesa Baptist Church in Guayaquil, one of fastest growing churches in Ecuador. A graduate of the University of Guayaquil, he teaches technical English in the university's department of chemical engineering. He represented Ecuador at Stockholm when the Baptist

World Alliance met in Sweden.

The operation which came at the Christmas season was in a sense a gift from Christians here to a fellow Christian from South America.

Campos is a friend of several Mississippians who are or have been missionaries in Ecuador—James Gilbert, Stanley Stamps, Sammy Simpson. Gilbert, who is now on furlough in Mississippi, said, "When Simpson and Gareth Joiner learned about the pain Campos was experiencing they felt that some people in the United States would be glad to help. Simpson had been a Mississippi College classmate of James Hughes, now an orthopedic surgeon. Joiner wrote to me. I talked with my brother, J. T. Then Hughes was contacted by him and Simpson."

Dr. Hughes, assisted by Dr. James Britton, did the surgery without charge. J. T. Gilbert, brother of James, is contributing his services as the physical therapist for a period of possibly eight weeks. (Several Jackson friends of the Gilberts are participating in the gift by taking care of the minimal \$500 that the hospital charged.)

Dr. Hughes said, "It is the business of the medical profession to help others. We did this to show Christian compassion and concern. The WHY we did it is important and not the WHO did it. What we did was for the Lord, and not for personal glory."

At the time that Campos' hip was smashed in the accident he had surgery in Quito. Since then the hip joint had come out of socket; one leg was shorter than the other; and the spinal column was being affected. A metal cup placed in his hip during previous surgery was cutting into bone and nerves and causing excruciating pain. Because of damage being done to Campos' spine, doctors had told him it would not be long before he would be completely immobile, and that he might have only a short time to live.

"If I did not live long, that would be all right with me," said Campos, "except that the Lord gave me abilities and talents and I wanted to use them for Him. I wanted to live to win others for Him. Glory for me is to win people to Jesus Christ in Ecuador."

His smile widened. "Next week I will talk to my wife by radio." He named the exact hour he would contact Norma by shortwave and ask her about their eight-month old son, Juan Carlos. (His wife works in Baptist convention office in Guayaquil.)

Ham radio operator Gene Dobbs (pastor of First Church, Philadelphia) will help him with this contact.

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ACTION Interpretation Meets Will Cover State In February

By Judd Allen,

Sunday School Department

A goal of 76 associations has been established to participate in an association ACTION campaign during September, 1978. This is an effort by the association to conduct Church AC-

TION Campaigns with either the pastor or outside director leadership.

The objective is to enroll new Sunday School members by using proven ACTION principles; Sunday School Growth and Enlargement principles to strengthen the Sunday School organization and provide a firm base for the church to reach and teach effectively those enrolled during the week.

There will be eight Area Interpretation meetings conducted February 13-14. The pastor and Sunday School director and other interested persons are urged to attend one of the conveniently located meetings.

Attending this meeting is extremely important for an interpretation of the ACTION Enrollment Plan which is the basis for securing commitment of churches and associations which will be done during February and March.

The eight meetings will all take place from 7-9 p.m. as follows: Feb. 13, Calvary Baptist Church in Batesville, Ackerman Baptist Church in Ackerman, Bay Vista Baptist Church in Biloxi, and Forest Baptist Church in Forest. Feb. 14, Northside Baptist Church in New Albany, First Baptist Church in Indianola, Halbert Heights

Baptist Church in Brookhaven, and Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg.

Fastest Growing

Church Witnesses To Beer Drinkers

By Tim Nicholas

Fellowship Baptist Church in Hattiesburg is a church that has members who put gospel tracts into beer displays in grocery stores. It's also the fastest growing Southern Baptist church in the state of Mississippi.

This is according to a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board survey which based its statistical findings on data from Uniform Church Letters. Fellowship ranked 46th fastest growing in the Southern Baptist Convention.

When pastor Herschel Wren came three years ago, the church was running about four in Sunday School — now it has between 75 and 100. In 1977, the church was third in the state in baptisms with 86; in 1976, it ranked first with 116.

Most of the members interviewed pointed to the pastor as a primary reason for growth. "When you've got a spirit-filled, God-called man to lead the flock, it's going to bear fruit," testifies, J. E. Drew, chairman of the church's board of directors (it has no deacons). "We haven't got anybody qualified," says Drew, general foreman of Thornton Welding and Repair Service.

Drew, music director of the church for five years, works with fellow member Jack Weaver each Sunday afternoon at the church's "mission." The two lead services at Briarfield Addition, a government housing pro-



Wren stands by old and new church building. He designed the new one.

ject. Fellowship church has helped elderly residents of the project buy groceries, and occasionally will help furnish apartments.

Rita Drennan, Wren's aunt, and adult ladies' Sunday School teacher includes her nephew among reasons for growth plus "We have good Sunday School teachers. Prayer is another thing," she lists. And "ladies' visitation on Wednesdays." She adds, "some good sturdy men, and some of the sweetest God-called young people."

"Everybody says we have the strangest church," says Rita. "If we feel like shouting, we shout. They say

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Mississippi Baptists Give Nearly \$8 Million

Mississippi Baptists during 1977 gave more than ever before for the cause of world-wide missions efforts through the Cooperative Program, reaching almost \$8 million in their giving.

The total gifts for 1977 from the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program amounted to \$7,928,006, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer for the convention. This is \$690,981 more than the figure for the year before and amounted to an increase of 9.6 percent.

The Cooperative Program is the voluntary, unified system used by 35,000 Southern Baptist churches in all 50 states for financing denominational programs and missions efforts in Mississippi, the United States, and throughout the world.

The 1977 gifts of \$7,928,006 missed the budget goal of \$8.4 million by \$471,994, Kelly said; but he pointed out that the 1977 budget represented an increase of 16.1 percent above the total gifts for 1976. "This was the largest increase ever attempted for one year," he said. The increase in giving for 1977 over 1976 was almost as great as the \$703,970 increase of 1976 over 1975.

The gifts for December amounted to \$715,456, Kelly noted. This was \$59,297 more than for the same month of the year before, which was an increase of

8.5 percent. As was the case with the year before, December was the fifth largest month in giving for the year.

The year 1977 had the highest giving record for a single month in the history of Mississippi Baptists. This was in August when Cooperative Program gifts reached \$783,831.

Mississippi Baptists have again indicated that they give priority emphasis to missions causes around the world," Kelly said. "There was a time during 1977 when missions gifts seemed to be faltering but the Baptist church members of the state rallied to make it the finest year for the

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Conferences Offer Ideas On Building Buildings

Two Church Building Conferences will be held in Oxford and Hattiesburg in early March.

The conferences, sponsored by the Church Architecture office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will feature information on planning, constructing and maintaining church buildings.

Designed for pastors, staff members, planning and building committee members, directors of missions, and

interested church members, these conferences will have on hand suppliers of materials with samples of pews, folding partitions, floor covering, baptistries, steeples, and other furnishings.

Topics to be covered in the conferences include: "multi-use buildings," "financing church buildings," "pastoriums," "Cut energy costs or cut programs," "Is a cheap piece of prop-

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Mission Service Corps Tops (BP) News Poll

NASHVILLE (BP) — The amazingly swift formation of the Mission Service Corps, from a June challenge to Southern Baptists by President Jimmy Carter to the first personnel selection in October, ranked first in balloting for the Top 10 Baptist Press (BP) stories of 1977.

The ambitious plan to place 5,000 short-term volunteers on Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) home and foreign mission fields by 1982 to back up career missionaries collected 12 firsts and 11 seconds in the balloting among state Southern Baptist editors and (BP) national staff and bureau chiefs. It placed on all ballots received and tallied 252.4 points in (BP)'s statistically-weighted numerical rating system.

Other rankings went like this: SECOND: The national clamor over television programming, which caused reverberations throughout the broadcast industry, placed on all ballots and collected seven first place votes and 226.4 points in hotly contested voting for second, third and fourth places. It included nationwide efforts by the SBC Christian Life Commission to urge responsible programming and battle ABC-TV's controversial "Soap" series.

THIRD: The bold religious thrust President Carter's inauguration has brought to the White House and administration policy rated first place on eight ballots and 214.3 total points. It placed on all but one ballot. The unprecedented religious implications of Carter's election placed a strong first in the 1976 balloting.

FOURTH: Increasing discussion and debate among Southern Baptists over ordination of women, an issue which has confronted other denominations, placed on all ballots and picked up four first place votes and 204.7 points.

FIFTH: Escalating protests across the nation over homosexual rights, including the furor surrounding singer Anita Bryant's opposition to homosexuals in positions of influence over children, received no first place mentions. But it placed on all but five ballots and finished with 155.7 points.

SIXTH: Danger faced by Southern Baptist missionaries in troubled Africa collected 114 points to barely edge out two other contenders for sixth. The issue included detaining of missionaries by Ethiopian authorities and eventual evacuation of missionaries there; continued missionary presence in Uganda despite Idi Amin's clamp down on

Christians; and tension in several other African nations.

SEVENTH: Allegations that evangelist Billy Graham concealed a \$22.9 million fund, his denial of wrongdoing and his eventual decision to give full disclosure to avoid the appearance of wrongdoing tallied 107.9 points.

EIGHTH: Widespread alarm by religious leaders over decisions by governmental taxing authorities in regard to church institutions finished with 102.5 points. It involved such issues as the Internal Revenue Service "integrated auxiliaries" ruling about filing of information forms by certain church institutions and efforts in Kentucky to remove the state Baptist convention's tax exemption.

Nine stories waged an extremely close battle in the balloting for ninth and tenth places.

NINTH: Top rating in finances, academics and enrollment given Southern Baptist colleges by Earl J. McGrath, national known evaluator of educational effectiveness, in relation to others across the country collected 63.5 points. The McGrath Study, funded by a Lilly Endowment grant, involved a year of intensive study and includes a follow-up phase.

TENTH: Congressional efforts to confront issues involving human and civil rights, ethics and church-state relationships accumulated 55.2 points to barely shade furor surrounding Carter's appointment of a Vatican envoy (49 points); Carter's heralded stand on human rights (44.8); the continuing controversy surrounding racial problems, loss of pastor and split at Plains (Ga.) Baptist Church (44.5); the decision by SBC president James L. Sullivan not to seek a traditional second term and subsequent election of Jimmy Allen (36.1); acceptance of Christ by such well-known unbelievers as Charles "Tex" Watson and Susan Atkins of the Manson Family and Hustler publisher Larry Flynt (35.9); the SBC's vote to instruct agencies to assist Baptist churches in Canada (26.7); and the SBC's vote to instruct agencies to release salary data (22.6).

Out of 42 possible ballots among (BP) personnel and state Baptist editors, 12 state editors failed to return ballots. That represents a 71.43 percent return. Martin Bradley, manager of the research services department of the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville, designed the statistically-weighted numerical rating system used by (BP)'s national office to tabulate ballots.

Legislative Prospectus

Many Bills Hold Special Interest For Christians

HB 33: (McIngvale) Exempt sales of building materials & furnishings to churches from sales tax. Ways and Means.

HB 53: (Herring) Provide a life sentence at hard labor for delivery or sale of narcotic drugs. Judiciary A.

HB 56: (Horne) Results of intoximeter tests be admissible as evidence in civil case. Jud. A.

HB 96: (Burkes) Suspend driving privileges of any person refusing to submit to chemical test for determination of intoxication. Judiciary A.

HB 135: (Morrow) Delete mandatory retirement provision from Public Employees' Retirement Law. Appropriations.

HB 171: (Millette, et al) Provide criminal sanctions against sexual exploitation of children. Judiciary B.

HB 182: (Price) Medicines containing 30% alcohol be sold only in drug stores. Pensions, Etc.

HB 203: (Pierce, et al) Prohibit Sunday meetings of Legislature during regular session. Rules.

HB 206: (Herring, et al) Regulate obscenity & related offenses. Judiciary B.

HB 222: (Turner) Define offense of obscenity involving a minor. Judiciary B.

HB 259: (Levi) Lower population requirement for cities that may hold elections to permit sale of beer. Ways and Means.

HB 352: (Miller) Repeal the Drug Education Program Act. Education.

HB 354: (Miller) Amend Sec. 27-7-17, to increase maximum allowance for contributions to charity from 20% to 30% of net income. Ways & Means.

H. B. No. 364: (Morrow) An act to amend Section 75-75-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, to change the number of rounds for boxing or sparring matches or exhibitions from ten to fifteen rounds; to provide that the charge for each seat shall be left to the discretion of the Mississippi Athletic Commission; and for related purposes. Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 366: (Gordon) An act to prohibit age discrimination in employment practices; and for related purposes. Judiciary A.

H. B. NO. 370: (Clark — 16th) An act making an appropriation to the State Building Commission for the purpose of constructing a drug rehabilitation center at Mississippi State Hospital to treat first offenders of drug misuse for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1978, and ending June 30, 1979. Appropriations.

H. B. NO. 373: (Clark — 16th) An act to provide for voter registration on election days; to amend Sections 23-5-7, 23-5-29, 23-5-33, 23-5-39, 23-5-73, 23-5-75, 23-5-85, 23-7-35 and 23-7-319, Mississippi Code of 1972, to conform therewith; and for related purposes. Apportionment and Elections.

H. B. NO. 404: (Horne and Long) An act to amend Section 63-11-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, to require the local arresting authority to retain one's driver's license until such person is adjudicated guilty of the crime of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor; and for related purposes. Judiciary B.

H. B. NO. 428: (Levi — By Request) An act to provide that nine jurors may return a verdict in a criminal case;

and for related purposes. Judiciary B.

H. B. NO. 429: (Jackson) An act to repeal Section 99-19-83, Mississippi Code of 1972, which provides for the sentencing of habitual criminals to life imprisonment when one of the convictions has been for a crime of violence. Judiciary B.

H. B. NO. 456: (Horne, Jolly and Long) An act to amend Section 41-29-139, Mississippi Code of 1972, to prohibit the sale of paraphernalia used in connection with a controlled substance; and for related purposes. Judiciary A.

H. B. NO. 468: (Burkes) An act to amend Section 73-3-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, to extend the diploma privilege to graduates of all law schools in this state affiliated with accredited institutions of higher learning; and for related purposes. Universities and Colleges and Judiciary B.

H. B. NO. 472: (Stubbs) An act to amend Section 67-3-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, to lower the population requirements for local option elections; and for related purposes. Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 478: (Miller) An act to provide that an adult person may make a written directive instructing his physician to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining procedures in the event of a terminal condition; and for related purposes. Pensions, Social Welfare and Public Health.

H. C. R. NO. 9: (Levi — By Request) A concurrent resolution to amend Section 31, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to provide that jury verdicts in criminal cases may be returned by less than a unanimous vote of the jury. Constitution and Judiciary B.

S. B. NO. 2083: (Guy) An act to repeal Section 99-27-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, which provides that counties and municipalities may appropriate funds for the purpose of securing evidence of the unlawful sale or possession of intoxicating liquors or narcotics or illegal drugs. Judiciary B.

S. B. NO. 2123: (Moore) An act to amend Sections 63-11-35, 63-11-37 and 63-11-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, to establish a single offense for driving while intoxicated; to establish a presumption of intoxication at 10% blood alcohol content; to repeal Sections 63-11-31 and 63-11-33 which establish the offense of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and prescribe the penalty thereof; and for related purposes. Judiciary B.

S. B. NO. 2131: (Harpole) An act to repeal Section 67-3-71, Mississippi Code of 1972, which provides that debts for intoxicating liquors are not collectible. Judiciary B.

S. B. NO. 2133: (Harpole) An act to amend Section 97-29-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, to remove the requirement that the crime of drunkenness in a public place be committed in the presence of two or more persons. Judiciary B.

S. B. NO. 2145: (Harpole) An act to prohibit the sexual abuse of children and the sale or distribution of photographs, videotapes, films or other reproductions depicting such abuse; to prescribe the punishment therefor; and for related purposes. Judiciary B.

S. B. NO. 2156: (Smith — 3rd) An act to amend Sections 1-3-21, 1-3-27, 11-5-115, 11-7-167, 13-5-1, 15-1-27, 37-103-7, 41-29-145, 43-21-9, 43-21-19, 43-23-7, 67-1-81, 81-5-61, 83-9-3, 91-5-3, 91-7-37, 91-7-

293, 91-19-5, 91-19-11, 91-19-17, 93-1-5, 93-3-11, 93-13-7, 93-13-75, 93-13-77, 93-17-5, 93-19-1, 93-19-9, 97-5-7, 97-33-23 and 97-35-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, to lower the age of majority to 18; and for related purposes. Judiciary A.

S. B. NO. 2164: (Wright) An act to amend Section 63-11-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, to lower the blood-alcohol content necessary to establish the presumptions of driving under the influence and driving while intoxicated. Judiciary B.

S. B. NO. 2198: (Smith — 3rd) An act to provide grounds for denial, suspension and revocation of licenses for child care facilities by the Mississippi State Board of Health; and for related purposes. Public Health and Welfare.

S. B. NO. 2211: (Childre) An act to amend Section 73-3-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, to provide for an end to the diploma privilege for graduates of the University of Mississippi School of Law; and for related purposes. Judiciary B.

S. B. NO. 2295: (Smith — 31st) An act to amend Sections 23-5-79 and 23-5-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, to require that anyone who has not voted in the last four years shall be removed from the registration books; and for related purposes. Elections.

S. B. NO. 2349: (Yarbrough) An act to amend Section 75-75-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, to provide that boxing or sparring matches may be 15 rounds and to provide that the charge for seats at such matches be at the discretion of the Mississippi Athletic Commission. Finance.

S. B. NO. 2351: (Corlew) An act to amend Sections 23-5-25 and 23-5-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, to prohibit persons from voting in political primaries if no declaration of party preference has been filed; and for related purposes. Elections.

S. C. R. NO. 505: (Noblin) A concurrent resolution proposing an amendment to Section 116, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to allow the Governor to serve two consecutive terms. Constitution.

S. C. R. NO. 520: (Smith — 3rd) A concurrent resolution proposing the repeal of Section 48, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, which concerns the privilege of legislators from arrest. Constitution.

S. C. R. NO. 536: (Smith — 3rd) A concurrent resolution proposing the repeal of Section 98, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, which mandates the prohibition of lotteries. Constitution.

S. C. R. NO. 550: (Smith — 3rd) A concurrent resolution proposing the repeal of Section 198-A, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, which provides that no person shall be denied the right to work on account of any membership or nonmembership in any labor union or labor organization. Constitution.

S. C. R. NO. 581: (Smith — 3rd) A concurrent resolution to ratify the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America prohibiting the denial of equal rights on account of sex. Constitution.

S. C. R. NO. 582: (Smith — 3rd) A concurrent resolution establishing a commission to write a new state constitution. Constitution.

S. C. R. NO. 588: (Corlew) A concurrent resolution proposing the repeal of Section 48, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, which concerns the privilege of legislators from arrest. Constitution.



Lewis Nobles, Mississippi College president, right, holds the plaque that will bear the name of Mississippi College students receiving the James M. and Cissa Richardson Scholarship, along with Mr. and Mrs. James M. Richardson. Church members honored the pastor and his wife with the scholarship fund in recognition of twenty years of service to the church and community (Photo by John Keen)

MC Scholarship Fund Named For Richardsons

CLINTON — An endowed scholarship fund to help deserving students has been established at Mississippi College by members of the First Baptist Church of Leland, in recognition of the twentieth anniversary of their pastor's service to the church.

In a special service on Sunday, January 1, the congregation celebrated two decades of ministry by Mr. and Mrs. James M. Richardson to the church and the Leland community.

Don Baker, long-time member of the church, expressed the gratitude of the congregation for the ministries provided by the pastor and his family. A book containing more than 100 letters of congratulations from church members and friends was presented to the Richardsons by John Carter.

The announcement of the establishment of the James M. and Cissa Richardson Scholarship Fund at Mississippi College was made by Joe Macione, chairman of a special anniversary recognition committee.

Lewis Nobles, college president, was present to express the gratitude of Mississippi College for the service of the Richardsons as trustee and enthusiastic supporter.

Macione indicated that the scholarship fund would be a continuing symbol of the help that the Richardsons

have provided to many persons, young and old, in the Leland community for twenty years.

The Leland church is only the second full-time pastorate to be served by Richardson. During his tenure there he has been active also in Southern Baptist church life and the state and national levels. He has served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1975-76 following a year as first vice-president. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for two years and a member of the board for six years.

Richardson has been a strong advocate of mission activities serving as a member of both the Southern Baptist Convention foreign and home mission boards for a combined total of ten years. He has served as trustee at Mississippi College since 1972. Mississippi College honored him in 1975 by presenting him the Doctor of Divinity degree and again in 1976 with the Service to Humanity award.

Both Richardson and his wife, the former Narcissa Alexander of Boyle, are graduates of Mississippi College. They have four children, Jay, Gary, Ian, and Vivien, who were present for the special anniversary service.



"Junior" Wilson, manager of the University Shell Station, looks after church grounds. He says the church is growing because, "the preacher gets on everybody's toes." The church just completed a new building. The old one wasn't heated.

Evangelism Conference Meets In Gulfport, February 6-8

Frank Crumpler, Richard Porter, and Paul Rees headline the 1978 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference, meeting in Gulfport, Feb. 6-8.

The conference sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Department, directed by Roy Collum, begins at 6:45 p.m., Feb. 6, and concludes at 11:40 a.m. on Feb. 8.

Crumpler is presently serving as director of evangelism planning and consultation on the evangelism staff of the Baptist Home Mission Board. He was formerly secretary of evangelism for the Baptist General Association of

Baptisms Drop Second Year In A Row

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William Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., said: "Part of the reason for the decline in baptisms is demographics. Those who follow demographics know that unless there was a 'humongous' revival, there would be a downturn in baptisms."

Pinson noted that population movement probably affects baptismal numbers. People who moved to traditional Southern Baptist cities in the past were people "with their roots in church," he said. Now, people are moving to the Sunbelt areas from areas which do not have strong church emphases.

"Also, many times when people move from traditional Southern Baptist areas to new areas, they tend to lose their church membership," he said, adding: "We have just got to do a better job than we have ever done before. The days when Baptists had a lot of kids and when the church was the best show in town are gone. We don't have that now."

One evangelism leader, John Havlik of the Home Mission Board's evangelism development department, took issue with the heavy emphasis of baptisms as the "indicator of health and growth" in the convention. "We have made baptisms the only indicator," he charged, proposing that total membership is actually a better indicator than baptisms.

Sunday School Board projections indicate total membership will grow 1.1 percent, recording 13,064,754 in 1977 as compared in 12,922,605 in the previous year. "Baptisms reflect evangelistic zeal. Total membership is like sales and baptisms are like profits," said Havlik.

Hogue noted there are many prospects in the nation for evangelistic outreach, estimating 136 million Americans profess no faith in Jesus Christ. "The key to baptism levels is at the feet of the pastor. He must be challenged, motivated and equipped to do the job. More, he must do it if he expects his people to do it."

The evangelism leader speculated that if the 32,000 pastors would baptize just one person per week, the baptism rate would be 1,664,000 for the coming year. Also, he said: "There are approximately 750,000 Sunday School workers in 34,164 Sunday Schools. If they were responsible for just one baptism per week, that would result in 39 million conversions per year."

Southern Baptists, he said, need to be shocked by the decline in baptisms, and begin to see that responsibility lies within the local church. To stop the decline, Hogue called on the "pastors to practice what they preach... to get off issues and onto their call to win the lost."

He also called on the "laity to be the people of God," and said Mission Service Corps volunteers are not needed to paint churches and more outhouses, but are needed to witness to lost people.

The evangelism leader also called for cooperation on a "national level... working together as team members to get the job done. The need today is for us to get serious about witnessing and winning. But it must be a groundswell from our churches," he said.



Karen Grayson holds an infant at the Day Care Center she works part time.



J.E. Drew, chairman of the board of directors, and volunteer music director for the church gives his Sunday afternoons to lead services at a government housing project in Hattiesburg.



Wren visits his Aunt Rita, a Sunday School teacher at Fellowship.

Fastest Growing Church "Feeds Lot Of People"

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they can feel the love in it. That church is home to me."

Wren says Sunday School teachers at Fellowship are required to have a positive testimony of their experience. Wednesday evening services are primarily a training session. Wren will call people forward to act out witnessing situations. He teaches on Wednesday evenings "mostly on the basic doctrine of the church," he says.

Sunday evenings are two hour worship evangelistic services. "We invite testimonies," he says. "Some juniors are fantastic witnesses." The service replaces the church training hour.

The youth leader, Ted Dailey, leads a soulwinning class on Monday and

Thursday nights for the teenagers.

The 26 or so teenagers who attend the training sessions call themselves God's Secret Agents. They're the ones who put the tracts into Beer Displays. Karen Grayson, 16, who works after school hours at a day care center, says the qualifications for Secret Agents are minimal. "Just love Christ and want to tell people about it," she says. She and her mother and brothers and sister heard it was a "real active church" — so they visited and stayed.

"At school I hand out tracts and ask if they're saved," says Karen. Last year, she says, she had a big problem at school. "They said I was going to a holy roller church. The pastor prayed with me about it and I told them I was

going to stand up for Christ. After that, two boys got saved — one during English." Karen plans to be a missionary.

Herschel Wren who grew up in Leland surrendered to preach in April of 1954, shortly after he had signed to play baseball with the Cleveland Indians. He shucked that career to preach and finished school at Clarke College. He was pastor of a church in Lakeport, Ark., Airport Baptist Church in Greenville, Miss., then he went into evangelism for a while, "not big time stuff," he says, "most small churches in Arkansas." He pastored Auld's Baptist Church in Portland, Ark., for seven years, then came to Fellowship.

Wren says he tries to make at least one evangelistic visit each day. He hosts a weekly hourlong gospel music show in television which is shown on Hattiesburg television. And he preached 20 revivals last year outside Fellowship church.

Wren and the members go out to find people. He visited in a home once where the people were eating popcorn for dinner. He bought them \$100 worth of groceries and sent the health department to see them. Another man he found living under a bridge. He told him when he was ready to change his life to call him. The man called less than a week later.

"We don't give much to the Cooperative Program (\$75 last year)," he

says, "but we feed a lot of people in town."

Joel Ray, missions director for Lebanon Baptist Association which includes churches in Hattiesburg, says he's proud of the church's growth. "That church is reaching people rather wholesomely — that perhaps others of us are not reaching," he says. "When you look at it, it's not the location. There are not a lot of ample reasons for growth. Herschel and some others are going where the people are and have love and interest for them."

(This is the first of a series of stories on the five fastest growing churches in the state.)



Porter and Rees, speakers at the conference.

Virginia, and earlier pastored churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Richard Porter is pastor of Owens Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia. He is president of the East Mississippi Missionary Baptist Convention, and co-chairman, along with Earl Kelly of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, of an interracial committee on evangelism in Mississippi.

Paul Rees is a frequent speaker at Bible conferences, youth conventions, missionary rallies, college preaching missions, and commencements. He is editor-at-large of World Vision magazine. Rees will serve as Bible teacher for the conference.

Other speakers for the conference include Jerry Clower, Yazoo City entertainer, and Ken Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Tex.

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WANTED! Used Church furniture, 12 ft. pews. R. Miller, Darby Mennonite, Rt. 1 Box 12A, Kokomo, MS 39643, Phone: 601-736-5704.

MBREA Meet Special Session For Secretaries

Mrs. Doris McWilliams, pastor's secretary and office manager of the First Baptist Church of Tampa, Fla., will be the featured speaker for the secretaries section of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association's annual convention at the Sheraton-Biloxi Motor Hotel, February 23-25.

Mrs. McWilliams served as a church secretary in Middlesboro, Ky., for nine years and has been secretary at First Baptist in Tampa for the past 15 years. She is not only an experienced secretary but has taken advanced training in counseling, business law, advertising

and public relations, church business management, word processing, assertiveness and advanced accounting. She holds certification as church secretary on basic and advanced levels.

Mrs. McWilliams has conducted secretarial seminars for the Church Administration Department, Nashville; Georgia Baptist Convention; Mississippi Baptist Convention; Tampa Bay Baptist Association; plus many others.

She will hold separate conferences for church and denominational secretaries and will also speak to the entire convention group on Saturday morning on "How To Get Along With People in the Church."

She is married to Bisell H. McWilliams, Jr., a professional photographer.

Sunday School

Young Marrieds' Clinic To Be At First, McComb

The Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Pike Baptist Association are planning a Young Married Sunday School Leadership Clinic. The clinic will be March 10 at First Church, McComb. All churches in south and southwest Mississippi are invited.

The clinic will be for all of the leadership in Young Married Departments. John Sisemore and Mrs. Sisemore will be leaders for the clinic. The evening will begin with a banquet. Following it, there will be three separate conference periods, dealing with teaching improvement, outreach, department activities.

CAC—Coop. Min.

Human Relations Seminar Series Offers New Book

Not Our Kind of Folks, compiled by Dick Brogan, director of the Cooperative Ministries With National Baptists department, will be available at the Human Relations Seminars to be held next week. Complimentary copies of the book have already been mailed to Mississippi Baptist Convention and National Baptist pastors. The book, described as "a struggle with prejudices and human rights," was compiled by Brogan, with chapters written by Owen Cooper, Yazoo City; Bob Shurden, Mississippi College; James Porch, formerly of Northside, Clinton, now at Tullahoma, TN; S. L. Bowman, Greater Clark Street Baptist Church, Jackson; J. Clark Hensley, Christian Action Commission; and Brogan.

Resource persons for the Human Relations Seminars are Raymond Harvey, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and Charles A. Tope, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The seminars are being held from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 noon as follows: Monday, Jan. 16, Bolivar County Baptist Association Office, Cleveland;



John and Margaret Sisemore

More details may be obtained by contacting Mose D. Dangerfield, Jr., Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, or Harold D. Fleming, First Church, McComb.



SBC CP Spurts Ahead

NASHVILLE (BP) — Giving to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) national Cooperative Program unified budget rallied strongly during the third month of the 1977-78 fiscal year.

Undesignated receipts, funneled to SBC causes from 33 state or multi-state Baptist conventions, amount to \$12,994,323 through the first three months — 8.94 percent ahead of the same point last year. A total of \$4,692,157 in December registered 13.96 percent ahead of the same month last year.

Total giving for the year to date, including the Cooperative Program amount and another \$1,247,237 in designated gifts, is \$14,241,560, a 7.87 percent increase over the same point last year.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said the "significant increase in Cooperative Program receipts" represented "a growing interest in and commitment to Bold Missions Thrust," the SBC goal of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000.

Southern Baptist agencies are working on a \$55,080,000 operating and capital needs budget and Southern Baptists have voted an additional challenge budget of \$8,320,000 for unmet mission needs. The SBC has voted to set a goal to double total Cooperative Program contributions on the state and national levels by 1982 and then double twice more by the end of the century to fulfill the Bold Mission goal.

Smith County Holds Winter Bible Series

Charles L. Bryant, director of missions, Smith County, has announced that First Church, Taylorsville will host the fifth annual mid-winter Bible Conference sponsored by the Smith County Association.

The conference will begin at 7 o'clock Sunday night, Jan. 15, and will close on Wednesday night, Jan. 18.

Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, will lead studies in Old Testament. Malcolm Tolbert, pastor of First, Gainesville, Ga., will lead studies in New Testament.

Ralph Langley, pastor of Willow Meadow Church, Houston, Tex. will be the pastor of the conference and will bring the messages.

Martha Branham, Dallas, Tex., will again be guest soloist. Jimmy Anderson, Shawnee, Okla. will conduct Bible studies for young people.

There will also be morning conferences, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 10.

East Lansing, Mich. (RNS) — A professor of natural science who is also an evangelical Christian teaches a course at Michigan State University in which he presents "creationism" as an alternative to evolution. Dr. John Newton Moore, who has been on the faculty of Michigan State since 1946, told Religious News Service that he knows of no other such course at a publicly supported university that covers a full year and presents theistic creation as an option for students.

Topeka, Kansas (RNS) — If tipsy drivers cannot be kept from behind the wheel, some streets should be used only by "non-drinking drivers," a minister suggested here.

Brogan Presents His Book

Dick Brogan, left, director of the Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists, presents a copy of a new book he has compiled to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer. The book is titled, "Not Our Kind of Folks?" and was written by six authors. It deals with the struggles of the writers in religious, social, racial, cultural, educational, theological, and political prejudices. The writers are S. L. Bowman, J. Clark Hensley, James Porch, Owen Cooper, Robert M. Shurden, and Brogan.

Thursday, January 12, 1978

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Hendricks Will Lead Baptist Doctrine Seminar

NASHVILLE — William L. Hendricks, professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will lead a thematic study of the doctrine of man, this year's Baptist

Doctrine Study, in a seminar Feb. 3-4 in Nashville.

The Church Program Training Center seminar, for church staff members and other workers with adults and youth, will assign churches in promoting and conducting Baptist Doctrine Study for youth and adults.

Topics to be covered in the seminar include concepts of creation, sin, salvation, personhood, heaven and hell. Both the adult book *The Doctrine of Man*, by Hendricks, and the youth study book *Youth Affirm: The Doctrine of Man*, by Paul Brewer, will be studied and appropriate teaching methods discussed.

Baptist Doctrine Study is suggested for churches on April 17-21.

Schedules for a series of brief preview seminars in Mississippi will be announced later.

Directed by Steve Williams and Judith Woodbridge, both from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department, "The Doctrine of Man" seminar will be held in the new Opryland Hotel from 1:30 p.m. Friday to noon Saturday. Special features on Friday include a banquet and attending the Grand Ole Opry.

A \$30 registration fee should be mailed with registration information to the Church Program Training Center, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

Charlotte, N.C. (RNS) — Opposition to publication of a so-called "Christian Yellow Pages" directory here has curtailed potential sales by 75 per cent and delayed issuance of the first issue several more months, the group publishing the directory said.

The Missions Task

Be A Peacemaker

By John Alexander, Director Stewardship Department

Few things have a more debilitating effect on what a church can and should do for missions than unrest in the congregation. Sometimes it involves conflicts within the congregation itself. At other times it is a staff-congregation conflict. The result is the same in either case — a loss of spiritual power and a frustration of the church in its basic responsibility. The old adage, "Divide and conquer" is one Satan has used on God's people for centuries.

Each of us needs to hear again the statement of Paul to the church at Corinth (14:33): "God is not a God of confusion, but of peace." James admonishes his readers by saying, "For where jealousy and faction are, there is confusion and every vile deed. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without variance, without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by them that make peace" (3:16-18). Our Lord said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God" (Matt. 5:9).

In one association meeting, the moderator was recognizing pastors who had moved to the association within the last year. Of the six who had come during the year, only two were present. Four had fled!

It is impossible for a right-thinking Christian to believe God has anything to do with this kind of unholy situation.

The church, if it is a church and not a sports arena, is the body of Christ. Christ loves the church. He died for the church. He nourishes and cherishes the church. He purifies the church by washing with the water of the word. He does not take it lightly when anyone seeks to abuse or misuse the church. It is not "our" church; it is "His" church!!

He has a mission for the church to perform — a mission that includes the whole world and every person in it. Happy is the church that has in positions of trust laymen who love God first and the church and their families second.

Every church has its problems, for Satan is not yet bound. It is the responsibility of lay and pastoral leadership to come together and seek to solve these thorny problems that face churches from time to time. All problem solving should be done in the framework of preserving the integrity, unity, and reputation of the church and its leadership.

Ecuador Pastor

(Continued from page 1)

Campos will be in Mississippi perhaps eight more weeks. During that time he will stay with the Gilberts.

"David is dynamic. He loves people and is an enthusiastic evangelist," said Stanley Stamps, former missionary to Ecuador who is now a missionary to Nicaragua (Stamps is living in Clinton while on furlough.) "The Urdesa Church, with 125 members, is in one of the most prosperous sections of Guayaquil. At least a half dozen young men have gone out from the church as preachers. In fact, one of the members of the church is preaching for David while he is here."

Campos said that he accepted Christ when he was a boy, at a church camp. He grew up in a Christian home, though his parents are not Baptists. While he was a student at the Christian and Missionary Alliance Seminary four years ago, he felt that God was calling him to become a pastor.

He became a Baptist while attending the Gethsemani Baptist Church in Guayaquil, where he was enrolled in a Church Training class led by Glenna Stamps, Stanley's wife.

"After Campos became pastor, Glenna was pianist at the Urdesa Church and I was Sunday School director," recalled Stamps.

He said that though Campos was lame, he did not let his lameness deter him. He worked to pay his way through the university, majoring in German and English.

At the University Hospital in Jackson, Campos said, "I am grateful to God that I have no pain. I want to thank my doctors and the people at First Baptist Church and Dr. Pollard. Everyone at the hospital has been very nice. And I want to give my very special thanks to James and Dorothy Gilbert."



FEATURING: W. A. Criswell, Ralph Gade, Henry Brandt, Paige Patterson and Bob George

All-inclusive cost (including meals) \$599 from the Western U.S., \$699 from the Eastern U.S. For more information write: Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, 325 N. Ervay, Dallas, Texas 75201

JOIN ME IN HAWAII for the CONFERENCE ON PROPHECY April 25 - May 2, 1978 Seven Days and Nights At the Beautiful, Luxurious Kulina Hyatt Resort Hotel In Kihuku, Oahu

Religious News Writers Say Episcopal Schism Top Story

HOUSTON (BP) — Reporters who cover religion with the secular media

Building Buildings

(Continued from page 1)

erty cheap?"

The Oxford conference will meet at First Baptist Church there, March 6, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. The Hattiesburg conference will meet at Temple Baptist Church, March 7, in the same time period as Oxford.

Dennis Conniff of the convention board staff will coordinate the conferences.

Gave Nearly \$8 Million

(Continued from page 1)

Cooperative Program in the history of the convention. This is the spirit that is needed as we move along through the years of Bold Mission Thrust if we are to accomplish the goals that we have established for ourselves. For instance, we have adopted a goal nationwide of doubling out Cooperative Program gifts by 1982. Dedicated giving will be necessary to accomplish this goal, but it is a plateau of giving that will be necessary if we are to reach the larger goal of making a Christian witness available to everyone in the world by the end of the century. And that, after all, is simply being true to the directive of the Master as He commanded us to go."

The 1978 budget for the convention, \$8,636,000, is 8.2 per cent more than the total gifts for 1977 of \$7,928,006, Kelly noted.



David Campos, pastor of Urdesa Baptist Church in Guayaquil, Ecuador, visited the Baptist Building before entering University Hospital for surgery. He is shown second from right. With him were Stanley Stamps and his daughter, Wanda, left, and James Gilbert, right. Stamps, missionary to Nicaragua, was formerly missionary in Ecuador. Gilbert is Mississippi Baptist Convention Board missionary-in-residence while on furlough from Ecuador.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Mississippi Leads Nation . . .

Highest Drunk Allowance

The 1978 legislative session is under way. There will be many bills introduced that will be of interest to Baptist people. One of the most needed ones is the effort to establish a lower blood alcohol content for one to be considered intoxicated.

At this point in Mississippi the blood alcohol content required for a drunk driving conviction is .15 per cent. That is 50 per cent higher than any other state in the nation and almost twice as high as two states. Forty-seven states

have a blood alcohol content of .10 per cent for drunk driving. Two states, Utah and Idaho, have a blood alcohol content of .08 per cent.

Mississippi stands out as having the highest blood alcohol content in the nation needed for a conviction of drunk driving. Surely, this is not a distinction that we would wish to continue.

Such a high blood alcohol content allowed can only mean that in Mississippi drunk driving is legal. The Governor's Highway Safety program has

entered into a program to call attention to the need. The governor points out that last year in Mississippi 677 people died in automobile crashes, and more than 400 of the deaths involved alcohol.

The governor has proclaimed Jan. 22 to 28 as Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness Week. He is calling on the family to be the powerful force that it can be to combat these evils.

During the legislative session the Baptist Record will seek to keep Mississippi Baptists informed concerning

bills that would be of interest. More than likely, there will be material almost every week in this regard. When it is possible to present such information, the voting record of the legislators will be published as was done last year.

What the Legislature does is important in the lives of all of us. No one recognizes this more than the legislators themselves. Let us not be guilty of failing to support them with our counsel.

Bold Mission Goals . . .

Only With The Help Of The Lord

Mississippi Baptists, along with everyone else, have entered a new year. Not much of it is gone yet. We are only half way through the first month. We must not wait, however, if we are to make determinations that will carry us to victory in goals that have been established.

The new year is a time for setting goals and making commitments. It is always well to look back on the year just passed and see how well we handled the commitments that were made a year earlier. But we must not let either success or failure keep us from "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before . . ." As Paul wrote to the Philippians, now is the time to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

There may be any number of goals that we have set before ourselves as individuals or as churches. There are four, however, that have been established for all of us as a body; and we need to be paying particular attention to our planning and determination to meet them.

There is the year-long witnessing training that will be aimed at preparing all of us for the simultaneous revivals that are to come next year.

There is the plan to seek to enlist every church in having at least one missionary project during the year.

There is the plan to seek to enlist every association in having at least one out-of-state project during the year.

There is the plan to seek to enlist every church to enter into an ACTION campaign sometime in September.

These are matters that can easily be put aside while we get on to something else that has to be done this week. Baptists are notorious for always having something that does have to be done this week and also for approaching most of our projects in a humdrum manner. There are an awful lot of us, and it doesn't take much of an effort on an individual basis to make a pretty big splash as a body. We depend on that for our gold stars for performance as we get to the end of the year and count up what we have done.

Bold Mission Thrust, its goals, and its projects are not concepts that can be handled in the normal lackadaisical manner. It is going to take all of us going at the job with renewed commitment and renewed determination.

For those who have not already launched out with this sort of dedica-

tion, right now is not too early to start.

Just another project? Just another effort to get Southern Baptists to do something? No. It's an effort to confront the world with the gospel without piddling around about it the way we have been.

It is too great a task, true. It was never intended, however, that we would be able to accomplish such projects in our own strength. In the Lord's strength the goals of Bold Mission Thrust are completely within the realm of possibility. But we must get out there and get busy before he can help us.

Paul, of course, in his letter was not talking about attaining such goals as these particularly. He was quick to point out, however, that the perfection for which he was pressing could be attained only with the help of the Lord.

Guest Opinion . . .

What Is Happening To The Churches?

By E. N. Sullivan
Georgetown

The real church consists of born again Christians who are burdened for the salvation of people throughout the entire world. They recognize the authority of Jesus who gave the great commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." — Matt. 28:19,20.

While there are many churches dedicated to this world task, I fear that others are the victims of the wrong kind of leadership; allowing the world and its ways to take over. In 2 Tim., chapter three, the warning is that in the last days perilous times would come. Men would love themselves and pleasure more than they would love God. A "form" of godliness without power would be in evidence. There would be much learning, but these learners would never be able to come to the knowledge of truth.

Within the past few years I have noted that there has been a great departure from biblical practice in many of our churches. Some man-made innovations designed to get a "crowd" are questionable. There has been too much reliance upon gadgets, and the manufacturers of these things are getting rich at the expense of the church.

Some churches have so organized to exclude the children from the sanctuary at worship time. The children are moved to other facilities rather than being allowed the God-given right to worship with their parents.

The wise man said: "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord." I believe millions of dollars of God's money is being spent to provide facilities for the comfort and entertainment of the church family only which should be channeled into evangelistic crusades throughout the world.

Divided loyalties are much in evidence in the membership of present-day churches. Cheap drama has replaced spiritual dynamics. Seemingly an effort is made to pacify with watered down, liberalized, teaching materials those people who are unwilling to go all-out for Jesus.

I read an account recently, in report form, of some activities abroad sponsored by the churches; and in this lengthy report the name of the Lord Jesus Christ was not once mentioned.

So here we are in January 1978 with some programs without power, entertainment rather than inspiration, with much money and little mercy.

Oh, "we are having fun" when we should be overwhelmed with grief for a lost and dying world. Is the church becoming a "fun-place" rather than the "House of Prayer"?

I ask you, the readers, do we have in our pulpits men who are called of God, or men who are called by men, men who have responded only with speculative fascination as to how best use the church people to their own best interests?

Jesus said: "Ye shall have power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you." If we substitute strange ways in which to claim the attention of the people we cannot expect the Holy Spirit to direct us. I am submitting this article because I believe the Lord is leading me to do so. I shall relate to you an example of things of which I have been informed which have greatly disturbed me.

Just recently I was told by persons who attended the affair that in a Baptist Church a "shotgun" womanless wedding was held. I was told that some deacons composed part of the "cast." The thing was held there in the sanctuary, where many real weddings had been performed, where funerals for the saints had been conducted, where the gospel had been proclaimed, there in the midst of God's house. Surely we will inquire, was Jesus there? If He was I think He was there trying to get their attention to proclaim as He did in the Temple long ago: "Take these things hence." Read John 2:13-16.

The above is not a matter for laughter and blind approval. We should speak out against it, meanwhile, remaining kind, concerned, and prayerful for those involved. If we fail to come forth to repudiate such things, what will be next on the agenda?

Hopefully, I am not super-sensitive; but I'll tell you one thing, I am hurt and hurting deeply for Jesus' sake. My belief is that the vast majority of Mississippi Baptists would not agree that such activity is proper in the house of the Lord. If there is general acceptance by our preachers and laymen, God help us.

Rev. E. N. Sullivan
P. O. Box 166
Georgetown, Ms. 39078

"Charity knows no race nor creed."
Gittin, Talmud, c.500 A.D.

Book Reviews

MORE THAN JUST TALK, by Tim Nicholas; photography by Ken Touchton; The Home Mission Board; 160 Pages; \$6.95.

This is the latest in a series of five books published by the Home Mission Board using a generous number of photographs to illustrate the text. In this case the author, Nicholas, is associate editor of the Baptist Record. The book is nationwide in scope as Nicholas interviewed subjects from Annapolis, Md. to Hayward in the San Francisco Bay area of California. They are Bill Mackey, a pastor in Whitesburg, Ky.; Wanda Barker, a mental health worker in Annapolis; Calvin Miller, a pastor in Omaha, Neb.; Walt Arnold, a West Texas rodeo cowboy whose trail Nicholas followed from Silverton, Texas, to Cheyenne, Wyo.; Charles Bennett, a pastor in Hayward; and Ted Landgraf, a prison ministries worker in Jacksonville, Fla. The threads tying all of the stories together is evangelism. Each of the subjects relates through the text how faith in Christ is shared with all who will listen. Both the text and the photographs are extremely well done, and the book is one of exceptional interest.—DTM

BROTHER TO A DRAGONFLY, by Will D. Campbell; Seabury Press, New York; 268 pages; \$9.95.

The author is a native of Amite County, Miss. The Dragonfly of the book is his brother, Joe; but the book is as much about Will as it is about Joe. It is highly interesting reading most of the way through and is a chronicle of Will's struggle to find his position in the matter of race relations and then to live up to his convictions in the face of obstacles. It details his days at home before college, his college career at Louisiana College, as pastor of a small Mississippi Baptist church, as chaplain at the University of Mississippi, and as a field worker for the National Council of Churches. The book is most interesting as it tells of his family life at home in his early years.

DEATH OF A GURU by Rabin-dranath R. Maharaj with Dave Hunt (A. J. Holman, 224 pp., Paper, \$3.95). This autobiography of a Hindu leader who became a Christian describes Hindu life and customs clearly and honestly. It traces the man's difficult search for meaning within his parents' faith, his increasing disillusionment, and his struggle to choose between Hinduism and Christ.

BAPTISTS IN THE BAHAMAS by Michael C. Symonette and Antonina Canzoneri (Printed at Spanish Baptist Publishing House, El Paso, Texas, paper, 79 pp. \$4). This history of Baptists in the Bahamas was written jointly by Antonina Canzoneri, Southern Baptist missionary who grew up in Mississippi, and Michael C. Symonette,

executive secretary of the Bahamas National Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention. The nine chapters start with the beginning of Baptist work in the Bahamas in the late 1700's, and continue through a summary of 1977 Baptist work on the islands. There is information concerning Baptist societies, conventions, and unions, and about individual Baptist churches and Baptist leaders. Chapter 7 tells about Southern Baptist work in the Bahamas. Southwestern Seminary started sending VBS teams to the Bahamas in 1949, and continued through 1971. The FMB first sent missionaries there in 1951. This is an interesting book that shows evidence of thorough research. It may be obtained from P. O. Box N8154, Nassau, Bahamas.

Denominational Relations

Dear Sir:

I have noted with interest your editorial entitled "Sunday School Board Chair." You noted rightly that there is a great need for seminary students to have such information as you delineated in your column. I think it should be noted, however, that one of the basic purposes behind this effort is to acquaint students as well as faculty members with Southern Baptist Convention polity and the literature furnished by the Sunday School Board, and to avoid many of the problems of the independent movement created by lack of information about the Sunday School Board's facilities, programs, literature, etc.

Concerning your comments related to the Home and Foreign mission boards, every seminary has mission professors which deal directly with the mission programs of Southern Baptists. Usually the mission education agencies have a fair opportunity for the dissemination of their information through these missions professors.

It was never the intent of anyone that a discussion of the Sunday School Board would keep a professor and his classes busy full time. As a matter of fact, in the discussion with the seminary presidents, agreement was reached that these professors, if desired by the individual institutions, could be called professor of denominational relations. In a sense the Sunday School Board is really purchasing from the seminaries services which we very badly need and which cannot be obtained through any other source for such relatively small sums of money. We believe that if in 10 years we reach the spiritual leadership of 15,000 churches with the message of Southern Baptist polity, biblically



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Many things can happen in one week — births and marriages and deaths. A week can encompass festivities and loneliness, sorrow and joy.

For me, the last week of December meant Christmas at Mama's house with chicken and dressing and ambrosia and presents piled around the tree. It meant church at County Line on Sunday morning. My Aunt Nannie Pearl, 80, and her daughter Nell shared our family fun this year. It meant a night in Hogansville, Georgia for W. D. and me, with Betty, Luann, Karen, and Tom. We feasted on Betty's good cooking and admired the tree that touched the ceiling and was loaded with ornaments that Luann had collected all year from many places.

On Tuesday we went to a wedding at County Line, a country church that sees relatively few weddings. The whole neighborhood was excited because this one was to be at Christmas. White poinsettias were a lovely background for the bridesmaids in dark green dresses and ermine muffs. I was glad to see Judson Jones, who performed the ceremony for his great-niece, Ronda Whitlock. He was leading a revival at County Line when I joined the church there at age nine. His own wedding to Dixie Leath, my fourth grade teacher, was the first church wedding I ever saw.

On New Year's Day, W. D. and I were guests at the golden wedding anniversary reception given for W. D.'s sister and her husband, M. E. and Monroe Herrington who live near Magee. It was at Corinth Church, where Monroe is a deacon. M. E. and Monroe were married on Christmas Eve, 1927, when she was 14—the same year W. D. was born. They have two sons, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

Last week in a staff meeting I was seated next to Kermit King when my thoughts suddenly turned to Mrs. A. A. Greenoe, a mutual friend of ours. I guess I read his mind, for he turned

and whispered, "Did you know that Mrs. Greenoe died on Christmas Day?" I had not known.

Mrs. Greenoe was the originator of the Primary BYPU. At First Church, Vicksburg, she began a union that was probably the first in the Southern Baptist Convention for children under nine. For many years an approved worker with the state department of church training, she was known as "the lady who loves to laugh." She was 84.

brought the news that Dr. W. L. Howse died of a heart attack on Dec. 27. I admired him and felt that I owed him a debt, for while he was a professor at Southwestern he was one of the persons who steered me toward the path to Mississippi. (His father was a retired pastor and lived in Jackson when I came here in 1953 and I remember how Mrs. Doss Smith and I used to enjoy talking to him when he came to the Baptist Building on many of his regular walks.)

Life—bring what it may—requires a vital substance—blood.

"While you sit at work today, more than 200 units of blood will be used by patients in Mississippi hospitals; it must be donated by concerned people like you. Blood supplies have already reached a critical low. Give a pint of your blood through the Mississippi Regional Blood Center. It will probably save a life." This was the appeal in "The Good News," mid-week bulletin from my church—Morrison Heights in Clinton.

I remember that my roommate at Southwestern Seminary, Barbara Gainey, used to sell a pint of her blood for \$25 as often as she dared. Once an urgent appeal came for all students to give to the blood bank in Fort Worth. Donors lined up in the basement room where we played ping pong, next to the Snack Shop. I was feeling very heroic—but then I was humiliated beyond words when the nurse would only take a half-pint from me. I think I'll try again. How about you?

Letters To The Editor

based literature, etc., that it will pay enormous benefits from the entire denomination. I think we're doing precisely what you in your illustrations thought other agencies may wish to accomplish. The seminaries have been protected at every point related to accreditation, full charge of their own affairs, etc. We believe that the impact will be for the total good of the denomination.

I hope this gives you some additional information related to a very important matter.
Grady C. Cothen
President, Sunday School Board

Cooperative Program

Dear Sir:

Permit me to share this with you: "Only the Lord can know how much meaning was contained in the check I received from the Annuity Board. Without it, I would be hard-pressed to maintain dignity of life."

Such statements characterize those made periodically by recipients of supplemental assistance benefits through the Annuity Board. With feeling, they amplify a fact:

The Annuity Board's program of supplemental assistance is both real and reflective. It's real in that it helps those among us who can't always help themselves. It's reflective because it mirrors the whole spirit of the Cooperative Program.

Annually, the Annuity Board receives through the Cooperative Program an allocation which goes entirely for supplemental assistance to carefully selected retired ministers or their widows.

Because of the self-giving spirit of the churches in your convention, this vital ministry of supplemental assistance touched lives again in fiscal year 1976-77. A total of \$255,100 in Coopera-

tive Program funds for supplemental assistance came to the Annuity Board last fiscal year.

Please relay our deep appreciation to the churches in your convention. And accept the pledge of our support as you continue placing the Cooperative Program in the mainstream of your giving.

B. J. Chenault,
Senior Vice President and Treasurer
Annuity Board

Demonstrated Faith

Dear Editor:

For a long time I have started to drop a line, but something kept intervening. This time I told myself that I would take time out to do just that. Here it is!

"Gough Earns Certificate in Bible Memory Plan" — this is what motivated my thoughts. I live in a small community of professing Christians who attend church, tithe, and make believe they are really religious, born-again Christians. But very little outward demonstration of their faith is evident in their lives. In the last 5 years total conversions and rededications have been almost nonexistent. No missionaries, no pastors, and plenty of materialism idolatry.

I wish we as Southern Baptists would begin to recognize demonstrative Christian behavior and reward or re-enforce it, James, the half brother of Jesus, was completely in accord and supplemented Paul's views on this subject.

I am graduating from William Carey and will pursue formal theological training at New Orleans.

As a teacher, preacher, and pastor in the future, I will further God's will for all Christians to demonstrate their faith.

J. M. Wilkes

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Wendy Booker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Booker of Lake Harbor Church, won first place in a poster contest in the Rankin County Associational M Night. Her poster, Trucking To M Night, won a special recognition certificate and a new Bible. Marlon Seaney is her pastor.



First Church of Wiggins, honored the pastor and his wife, Jim and Lynda Street, with a Pastor Appreciation Day on Dec. 11. In honor of the pastor's sixth anniversary in Wiggins, the church presented Jim and Lynda with a trip to Israel. N. J. Lee, pastor emeritus, is shown presenting the gift to the Streets while Ona Mae Willingham, chairperson of the Appreciation Committee, looks on.



Charles A. Carter, left, a Jackson, Miss. attorney who is chairman of the Board of Trustees of Golden Gate Seminary, talks with Seminary President William M. Pinson, Jr. during a break in the annual fall meeting of the executive committee of the Seminary's Board of Trustees. The committee, meeting on the Mill Valley, Calif. campus, took action on a number of issues including the approval of a new World Mission Center designed to use the multi-national population of the San Francisco Bay Area as a training ground for foreign mission students.

James Gilbert, missionary to Ecuador, will be guest speaker at the Brotherhood Prayer Breakfast at First Church, Magee, on Jan. 15. John Crout will be ordained as a deacon in the evening service. Oliver Laddner is the pastor.

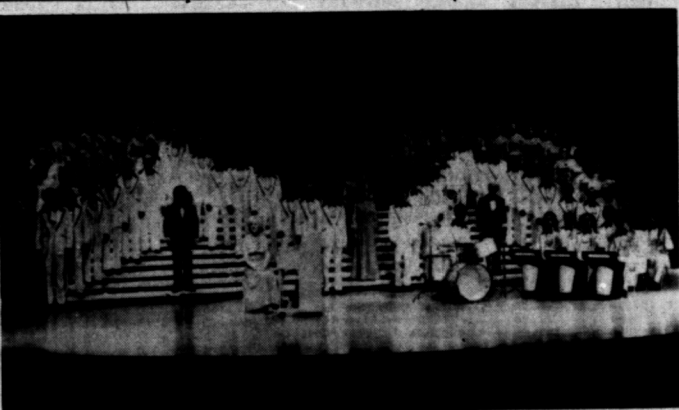
Mrs. Earl Kelly, wife of the executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, has re-entered Mississippi Baptist Medical Center for continued treatment of her lingering illness.

Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, missionary to Nigeria, has arrived in the States on leave (address: Box 94, Noxapater, Miss. 39346). She is a native of Noxapater. Before she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1955, she was youth and recreational director for First Baptist Church, Minden, La., and a schoolteacher in Holly Bluff, Miss.

Tony Black, pastor of Sand Hill Church, Attala County, married Sherry Mitchell of McCool on Dec. 16.

Russell and Annette Herington, missionaries to Costa Rica, and their sons Robin and Roman, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 520 Magazine St., Tupelo, MS 38801). Their furlough calendar is filling up fast, but you might want to contact them to see if they are still available for a weekend mission emphasis such as: Sat. night — adult mission banquet featuring a music presentation by Russell and Annette; Sunday morning message by Russell; Sunday night — missions youth thrust during the Church Training hour and a music message by the whole family during the evening worship hour.

Cindy Nix, 17, a student at Clinton High School, was one of four people awarded recording contracts with Mississippi recording studios in a statewide talent search in December. She was one of the soloists and her mother, Jan Nix, was director of the Baptist Children's Village Christmas Sparkles program. Her picture appeared in the Dec. 22 issue of the Baptist Record. The talent search was sponsored by the Mississippi Broadcasters Association.



Festival Of Praise At Yazoo City

The FESTIVAL OF PRAISE Choir produced by nationally recognized conductor Thurlow Spurr and under the direction of Bob Pickett will be in concert on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at First Church, Yazoo City.

The 50 voice national touring choir is made up of adult singers from all walks of life. They will be supported by the nine-piece Concert Brass with 18-year-old Bruce Hughes at the piano.

This program is being presented across the country by the FESTIVAL OF PRAISE Choir as an outreach of Concert Ministries, Inc. and Calvary Assembly. There will be no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be taken.



Students Minister To Senior Citizens

Seventeen students from the Mississippi College Baptist Student Union made a mission trip to St. Petersburg, Fla., to minister to senior citizens in cooperation with the First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg, December 31 through January 9.

The student ministry included maintenance work on senior citizen housing, music, drama, guitar ministry and puppet shows.

Those making the trip included Linda Snell, Kay Cassibry, Missy Hudson, Debbie Hindsman, Cynthia Hammack, Gloria Ray, Becky Stingily, Lisa Gilmore, Martin King, Paul Banks, Tom Martin, Duong Nguyen (Skip), Patsy Colville, George Mars, Kathy Cleveland, Cathy Collins, Ellis Liddell, and Eric Holleyman and Duann Kier, BSU assistants.



Star Nearly Doubles Goal

Members of Star Church, Rankin County, reached their Lottie Moon Goal of \$1,200 on the first Sunday the offering was taken. They decided to give more, and by the end of December had almost doubled the goal, with a total Lottie Moon Offering of \$2,005. Pictured are Nell Pierce, WMU director, and Carl Plaster, church treasurer.

Student Dies Accidentally

Dennis Reed, a junior at Mississippi College, died Jan. 6, apparently of carbon monoxide poisoning in a college owned apartment, according to police.

The 20-year-old church activities major, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Reed of Potts Camp.

His accidental death was apparently caused by an unvented gas heater.

Reed worked part time at Jackson's Calvary Baptist Church in its activities program. A member of Calvary, Reed worked the summer of 1975 as a student summer missionary in Montana.



A few days ago some friends laughingly said they would like to have a study made of my love for purple and lavender to see what it means. With tongue in cheek, they said it probably was symbolic of royal blood.

That brought me to tell them about some pictures we found while we were on Trenor Hill the other day.

The pictures were taken at a timber-cutting more than sixty years ago. In each of them you have no trouble seeing my daddy and my Grandpa Trenor. James and I plan to have the pictures blown up, one for each of our three boys and one for us. Then we will go to the barn still standing on the old homestead, a barn which may have been built with some of the planks from some of the logs from this cutting, and pull off some planks to have frames made for the pictures. We will title the pictures "Heritage" or "Mississippi Royalty" or something else that one of the boys may think of.

But we hope it will constantly remind them of many good legacies left them by such hard-working people, whose regal robes had suspenders, and whose crowns had brims to shade the hot sun from their sweating brows. And whose carriages were pulled by long-eared animals, whose servants were their friends. Whose scepters were steel-tipped and prong-tipped wooden handles for tilling the soil.

And whose hands were jeweled with callouses and corns and sun-burn, these people who built from their logs not only castles, but cathedrals.

It gives me a lump in my throat to look at the picture, and I hope it will do the same for the boys.

Newton Organist And Husband Die In Wreck

Mrs. W. S. Smith, 66, organist at First Church, Newton, and her husband, 70, both died in an automobile accident on Dec. 26, at Thomaston in Marengo County, Alabama. They were returning home from Dothan, Ala., where they had visited with their only child, Mrs. Bill Wallace, during Christmas.

The funeral was at First Church, Newton, on Wed., Dec. 28, at 11 a.m. Hardy Denham, Jr., pastor, officiated.

Mrs. Smith served as the organist for the evening services for many years, and then for the last five and a half years had been organist for both Sunday services. Mr. Smith was rarely absent from the Pastor's Bible Class on Sunday mornings. They joined First Church, Newton on June 14, 1942.



Seminary Graduates Twenty-Six

Twenty-six Mississippi students were among the 105 persons receiving degrees and awards from New Orleans Seminary during the 60th annual graduation exercises Dec. 16. Of those receiving degrees, one received the Doctor of Theology degree; one received the Doctor of Education degree; seven received the Doctor of Ministry degree; eight received the Master of Divinity degree; two received the Master of Church Music degree; and seven received the Master of Religious Education degree.

Mississippians receiving doctoral degrees are shown in the photo at right. Those awarded other degrees were: Master of Divinity — Earline H. Beck, Howard Alford, Ricky Elzy Johnston, Terry Regal, Manuel Weeks, James D. Wells, James Randall O'Brien, and James Futral; Master of Religious Education — Willie Johnson, Timothy Wayne Leggett, Kathy West, Glenn Shows, Wm. David Miller, Kenneth Lamar Jenkins, and Patricia Corey; Master of Church Music — Byron Cutrer and Elizabeth Johnson.



Nine Mississippi men were among the 105 persons receiving doctoral degrees at the 60th annual graduation exercises at New Orleans Seminary Dec. 16. Pictured with Landrum Leavell, president of the seminary and who presented the awards, are (front row) Landrum Leavell, Doctor of Ministry; Leavell; Billy Ray Thomas, Doctor of Ministry; Robert Thomas Hudson, Doctor of Ministry; Benjamin H. Boone, Doctor of Ministry; back row are Eddie Laskel Hamilton, Doctor of Ministry; Ronald G. Kirkland, Doctor of Theology; Roger F. McGrew, Doctor of Education; and Ernest Sadler, Doctor of Ministry. James Denton Goodwin, Doctor of Ministry, is pictured below. — (NOBTS photo by Richard Dodge).



Clarke Student To Be Semester Missionary

Dale Pocase, who is graduating from Clarke College at the end of this semester, has been selected by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to serve in semester missions beginning this month.

Semester missions is a program for college students who want to give one semester of service during their college days. Pocase, from Pensacola, Fla., has served as BSU missions chairman at Clarke and as a library assistant. He will be living in

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and serving as youth worker in the metropolitan Pittsburgh area.



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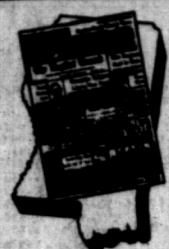
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Just For The Record



SYLVARENA CHURCH burned a copy of the note of indebtedness on their pastorage Dec. 18. "Make It Up" Sunday (Dec. 11) produced an offering of \$2000 above the regular church offering, and made possible the final pay-off, according to Pastor Jerry Barlow. With over two-thirds of the note remaining to be paid, the church family began a campaign in August, 1976, to become debt-free. Buddy Lowrey, left front, holds the note. Troy Smith sets it afire, while pastor, Finance Committee and members gather around.



YOUNG PEOPLE OF FIRST CHURCH, BELZONI, celebrated the birthday of Jesus with a 3 ft. by 7 ft. iced cake and 1,977 candles placed on top forming the name JESUS. Pictured in the Fellowship Hall with the cake are Everett Solie, left, minister of music and youth; Robert Templeton, bottom right, and Gregg Bridgers, top right. The Youth Choir presented the Christmas musical, "IT'S THE LORD'S THING!" Following the musical, the entire church was invited to the party. The Christmas Story was read by Jasper Neel, pastor. Then the youths gathered around the cake and lighted the 1,977 candles. The congregation sang "Happy Birthday to Jesus."

Church Closes

Providence Church of Gulfport voted Wednesday, Nov. 9, 1977, to close the church. The property will be sold and the church will not relocate. The proceeds of the sale, after expenses are paid, are to be placed in the Gulf Coast Baptist Foundation. The interest from the account is to be used by the Gulf Coast Association for new mission work as the association's executive committee directs.

Richmond (BP) — Rhodesia seems to be tightening its missionary visa procedures, according to reports received by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials. Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division, said word has been received that the visa application for a volunteer couple, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Woods of Mill Valley, Calif., has been denied by Rhodesian officials. The couple will accept an alternate volunteer assignment in Liberia.

New Hope Church, Ellisville, celebrated its first annual BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS on Sunday night, December 18.

The party began by everyone bringing their gifts to Jesus and placing them under the Christmas tree. Wrapped gifts were brought in the form of offerings to any or all of the following: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, church Building Fund, church Choir Robe Fund, and BSU Summer Missions.

The congregation sang Christmas Carols. Earl Clark, pastor, opened each gift and read the amount given and to which offering designated. All gifts totaled over \$900.

Before cutting the birthday cake, everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and the children blew out the candles.

The cake, baked by Mrs. Elton Townsend, was decorated with red poinsettias and ten green candles (each representing 200 years).

First Church, Crystal Springs, dedicated a new pastorage on Sunday, Jan. 1, at 2 p.m. This service was followed by open house. A. Estus Mason is the pastor.



FIRST CHURCH, MATHISTON, gave Pastor Marvin Bibb a new car in December. Bibb began his fifth year at the church on Nov. 27, and on Dec. 18 Wallace Fortner, chairman of deacons, and Stanley Dorroh, presented the keys to a 1978 LTD Ford to the pastor and his wife (above). Dorroh stated that this was a token of love and esteem the church gave "in appreciation for these two who have shown the church and community the true meaning of Christian love and sacrifice."

Staff Changes

Rick Carter, a graduate of New Orleans Seminary who is employed at Holmes Junior College, has been called as minister of music at Second Church, Kosciusko, in Attala County. His wife was elected as church organist.

Sanford N. (Buddy) Casey III has accepted the position of minister of music at Parkway Church, Natchez. A native of Pearl, he holds the Bachelor of Music degree from Mississippi College and Master of Church Music degree from New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Kathy, have one son, Sanford.

He moved from First, McComb.

Danny Jones assumed the position of minister of music and youth at Pearson Church in Pearl, Jan. 1. He goes to Pearson from a similar position at Griffith Memorial Church in Jackson. Jones, a Kentucky native, is a graduate of Clarke College, and Union University, and is married to the former Bettye Hodges of Tupelo.

Gael Eddings has recently been called to the pastorage of Palestine Church in Hinds Association.

Louis Smith, pastor of Briarwood Drive Church, Jackson, has resigned to accept the pastorage of First Church, Canton. He and his family moved to Canton early in January.

Edwin Sudduth, associate pastor of Fairview Church, Indianola, has accepted the position of associate pastor and minister of music at First Church, Troy, Tenn. A native of Durant, he has been a resident of the Indianola area since 1968, having moved there from Gulfport where he served on the staff of First Church.

For almost three years, he has conducted a weekly ministry to the patients of the Care Inn, Indianola. He has served as accompanist for the Singing Churchmen of Mississippi and also for numerous conventions and conferences. He is married to the former Ruth Brasseal of Vicksburg.

Devotional

Needed: A Bold Team

By James Gilbert, Missionary to Ecuador

"Bold Mission requires a bold team, not just a bold coach in every church." No one would question that "Bear" Bryant is a great coach, but he would be the first to admit that it helps to have a good bold team when you go to the Sugar Bowl.

Does this "Parable of the Pigskins" (adapted from David Augsburger) say anything to us as we prepare our churches for Bold Mission?

Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto a football coach who called his team unto himself in the huddle.

"Men are brethren," saith he, "the foe is wise with deceptive passes and deceitful plays. We must watch diligently and stand fast with all might and all strength."

Then sent he his players into the stands. "Take heed," saith he, "and cheer for me." Then went he out onto the gridiron to face the foe. And lo, it went not well with him.

And by-and-by, when time was called and he had called his players to the sidelines, the players saith unto him, "Coach, we would go with thee, for the enemy cometh in like a flood, and thou art not able to withstand them."

"Nay," quoth he, "have ye not called me to be thy coach? What knoweth thou of the polity of football? Return ye to the bleachers, and come punctually when time is called."

He went forth, and again hard times felleth upon him, and he returneth to the huddle grievously sore. "My fellow players," saith he, "We must needs for the present forfeit the game. However, it mattereth nothing. It is but nought beside the importance of the huddle, but forsake not the assembling of yourselves together in the huddle every seventh minute, and it shall suffice."

"But coach!" protested the players, "what of the game?"

"I said it is but nought, come ye to the huddle," saith he.

Then came there a referee in their midst. "Guards, tackles, and backs," saith he, "why stand ye here idle all the day? Go ye forth into the field, for the time is late, even near unto the end."

"But what of the coach?" asked they unto him. "Verily, verily," saith the referee, "he knoweth naught of the game, else had he taken thee with him to meet the foe, and the victory had been obtained."

"But, sir," saith one, "it is not meant that we should play the game, for lo, we have not been licensed as coaches."

"Look ye to the rule book," saith the referee, "and it shall be revealed unto thee that the game was intended for players, not for coaches."

Then goeth they and obtaineth a rule book, and lo, it was so!

With gladness and rejoicing went they forth, coach and players together. And when the foe had descended upon them, they found strength to withstand, and the enemy prevailed not, but fell, and great was the victory that day.

"And his gifts were that some should be pastors and teachers for the equipment of the saints (all God's people) for the work of the ministry. (Ephesians 4:11,12)."

"Look In Mirror To See Your Church" — Cooper

By Nancy McGough

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — "If you want to know what kind of church you serve, simply look in the mirror in the morning," Owen Cooper told the December graduating class of Southern Seminary here.

"Right or wrong, most churches reflect the image of their professional leadership," said the noted Baptist layman from Yazoo City, Miss., who was presented the seminary's highest award, the E. Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award.

"You will consciously or unconsciously grow a church in the image that you hold up before them. You can grow an evangelistic church, you can grow a giving church, you can grow a mission-minded church," he added.

He also encouraged them to actively involve laymen as they seek to "grow" the kind of church they would like to have.



Ward Portrait Hung In Attala

Mrs. H. H. Ward has presented to the Attala Association a portrait of her husband, the late H. H. Ward, to be placed in the Homer Ward Memorial Library at the Attala Baptist Building in Kosciusko. Ward was Director of Missions for the Attala Baptist Association for approximately twenty years. The portrait was received by Johnny Parks, moderator, Mrs. Horace McMillan, librarian, and W. Levon Moore, director of missions. From left to right are McMillan, Mrs. Ward, Moore, and Parks.

Pastor Dies From Burns In Explosion

Johnny Whitehead, pastor of Schoona Chapel, Pontotoc County, was severely burned in the explosion at the dog food factory in Tupelo on Dec. 22. He died Friday, Jan. 6.

He was a patient in the Burn Unit at the University Hospital in Jackson, with burns over 90 per cent of his body.

His brother, Gerald Whitehead, and Talmadge Stubblefield, brother of Charles Stubblefield, pastor at Ecru, were also seriously burned in the explosion. Both are in the hospital in Greenville.

Johnny Whitehead had been in the pastorage for 15 years and has been pastor at Schoona Chapel for a year. He and his wife are natives of Pontotoc County. They have one daughter.

Mrs. Whitehead lives at Route 1, Ecru, MS 38841.

Easthaven Reaches Goal

The Easthaven Church, Lincoln Association, reached its Lottie Moon Goal of \$1,000 on January 1. Charles Gentry of Clinton is serving Easthaven as Interim Pastor. Gloria Irwin is Woman's Missionary director.

Cooperation is doing with a smile what you have to do anyway.

Kindness is Christianity with its working clothes on.

Uniform Lesson

Self-Discipline For God's Glory

By Hardy Denham, Jr., First, Newton
Daniel 1:3-5, 8-17

It is never easy to say no in a time of real temptation. This is the testimony of many people who have wrestled with the alluring pull of sin. Leo Tolstoy, the Russian writer, spent the early years of his life in sinful practices. He did not like that life-style and sought to be free of it. His battles with temptations usually ended in defeat. Instead of being a victor he became a victim of vices he sought to conquer. Tolstoy wrote about the seductive voices that lured him to sin: "I knew where these voices came from. I knew they were destroying my happiness; I struggled, I lost. I fell asleep dreaming of fame and women... it was stronger than I."

Daniel and his companions in Babylon had the fortitude and character to hold to their convictions. They did so in spite of a king's command. These young Hebrew noblemen were taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar when he captured Jerusalem in 605 BC. It was customary in those times for the conqueror to take the most skilled and talented captives back to his land to use them for his advantage. When Daniel was faced with the decision of adopting the life-style of Babylon or holding to the teachings of his youth, he resolved not to defile himself (verse 8).

I. The Royal Decree

Daniel 1:3-5

Nebuchadnezzar gave a command to the chief eunuch, Ashpenaz, regarding members of the Jewish royal family and nobility who had been brought from Jerusalem (verses 3-4). The king's purpose was to brainwash those Hebrew youth so that they would become Babylonian in precept and practice.

One aspect of the royal decree was a change in diet. The Hebrews were to be fed the rich food and wines from the king's table (verse 5). Another part of the command concerned a three year period of education in the life, lore and language of the Babylonians.

We live in a changing world. The pressure is always upon Christians to move with the times and keep in step with the world. This often means a radical change in life-styles. Some of this change is harmless, but some is not. Like the edict of Nebuchadnezzar, some of the pressure for change today

means the abandonment of principles and practices God has decreed.

II. The Resolve Declared

Daniel 1:8-14

Daniel had convictions and he stood by them (verse 8). His refusal to eat from the king's table was not an act of contentment, but a resolve based on conviction. It is one thing to be contentious — to disagree or refuse just for the sake of being obstinate. It is an entirely different matter to stand by one's convictions. Daniel had convictions about what he should eat and drink. He had been trained to live according to Jewish dietary laws (Deuteronomy 12:23-28; 14:3-21; Leviticus 11). He believed that to disobey in this area of life would be to disobey God.

Therefore, Daniel proposed a contest to Ashpenaz (verses 11-12). The eunuch looked with favor upon the young Hebrews. Even though Ashpenaz feared disobeying his king, he also had compassion on the Hebrews.

Daniel's proposal was one that would allow the chief eunuch to see that the Jewish diet was better for the young Hebrews than the food from the king's table. The contest would last for ten days during which Daniel and his friends would eat according to Jewish traditions while servants of Ashpenaz would eat the king's diet (verse 12). At the end of the ten days, the chief eunuch would measure the results and see what should be done (verse 13).

What caused an official in Nebuchadnezzar's court to risk his neck by consenting to Daniel's plan? Doubtless his association with the Hebrew youth caused him to see strength of character and fidelity in relationships. Christian resolve, though not always understood by others, is nonetheless influential.

III. The Results Discerned

Daniel 1:15-17

At the end of the ten day period of testing it was seen that the Hebrew youth were in better condition than the Babylonian servants. The Jewish diet was more beneficial than the rich foods from the king's table (verse 15).

This result gives insight into one reason why the Lord stipulated a special diet for His ancient people. Certainly the dietary regulations would make the Hebrews different from their pagan neighbors, and the diet would be a test of obedience to the Lord. How-

ever, the dietary regulations also resulted in better health. Many Americans are killing themselves by what they eat and drink. They are committing suicide on the installment plan every time they sit down at the table to eat. Much of the rich foods eaten and all the alcohol consumed subtracts days from one's life span.

Ashpenaz saw for himself the results

of the contest. He allowed the Hebrew youths to eat their own way during their period of training (verses 15-16). The Lord God also honored Daniel and his friends (verse 17). Because those young men had the courage to stand by their convictions, their lives were blessed and enriched. The Lord always honors those who honor Him.

Life and Work Lesson

Whose Servant Am I?

By Bill Duncan, First, Long Beach
John 13:1-15

The Gospel of John does not include the instituting of the Last Supper by Jesus Christ as do the other Gospels. John rather dwelt upon what Jesus did at the Supper and emphasized Jesus' awareness that His hour had come. As a result we have one of the richest lessons to learn that is to be found in all the Bible.

The scene of John 13 is the upper room where Jesus is observing the Passover meal with His disciples for the last time. The mood of the Supper was set by the sacred an35 solemn spirit of the Passover. The disciples were aware of the anxiety and tension that was in the air. They realized the peril that they faced. The disciples still did not fully understand the nature of Jesus' mission and the things He had taught them.

Jesus used the action of washing the feet of the disciples to show His love for them. The true character of God was revealed to the disciples when Jesus girded Himself with a towel and began washing their feet. Normally, the host would offer a traveler or guest a basin of water and towel as he entered the door. In some cases a slave would wash the guest's feet. "The task was considered so menial that a Jewish slave was not compelled to wash the feet of his Jewish master." There was no slave at the Supper and Jesus was in the position of host. So He arose from

the supper table and began one by one to wash the disciples' feet. It was an act of loving service performed individually for each disciple. This menial service of the Master would forever remind all His followers that true greatness is through service to others. He who made the stars was washing dirty feet.

We sometimes think of humility as a cringing response to danger. But in Jesus we know that humility is not a refuge for a coward. Jesus was no coward. He faced His enemy without batting an eye.

Humility does not mean belittling or running yourself down. Humility does not mean a poor opinion of one's self.

What is humility? Often the best way to understand a word is to look at its opposite. What word is opposite of humility? The word is pride. Pride is the creature acting as if he were the creator. "It is the folly of playing God," said Lance Webb. Pride wants position, seeks recognition, expects special treatment and is the demanding, seek-always-for-myself attitude.

Humility is the result of finding God. Humility is forgetting self and seeking always for God and others. John explained it this way, "Knowing that He had come from God and was going to God" (Moffatt). When one knows that he is from God and is going to God, no task is too menial.

Why would Simon Peter protest against Jesus' plan of washing his feet. Would you let someone wash your

feet? It seems that Peter was horrified by the event. Could Peter have resisted because he was too proud to admit that he needed anyone to help him? Perhaps he had pride.

Jesus replied to Peter's protest by saying that if Peter refused to let Him wash his feet he would have no part in Christ's company and movement. The response of Peter was, "Wash me all over." Peter learned a supreme lesson.

Jesus did not merely talk about humble service as the evidence of greatness in God's Kingdom; He demonstrated it in His own life. He in turn summoned them to be servants. "Whoever would be great among you must be your servants and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all" (Mark 10:43-44). When one sees the pomp and splendor of the church and its many ministers, one must ask if we have forgotten or indeed ever considered that we are called to a servant role.

This is God, the humility of God — water dripping into a basin and God stooping down to wash the dirt from the feet of men. No work that will help men is too dirty for God. He will wipe away your tears, or wash clean your dirty life, or pull you out of the gutter.

Do you want to be great? Get a basin and some water and start washing away the dirt of the world.

Do you want to be happy? Stop trying to be a big shot and start trying to be a servant.